Import of steel

*312. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are still importing steel;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the international quality standard has not been achieved by our country in steel production due to technology gap;

(d) if so, what measures Government propose to take to update the technology regarding steel production to compete with the international market; and

(e) what are Government's plans to reduce and gradually stop the import of steel from foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) Steel is being imported by the consumers and the Canalising Agencies in accordance with the Import Policy in force.

(b) During April—October, 1988 the Canalised imports amounted to 4.7 lakh tonnes of steel mainly consisting of flat products like Hot Rolled coils/sheets, Cold Rolled coils/sheets/plates, Tin Mill Cold Plate coils and Electrical Steel sheets etc.

In addition, direct imports are also resorted to by consumers for certain items.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The quality of tested steel produced in the country is at part with the international standards as well as of ISI specifications.

(e) Modernising, expansion and technological upgradation of the existing steel producing units as well as creation of new steel making facilities is planned to improve indigenous availability and reduce import of steel.

वनस्पति के मूल्य

*313. **श्री राम नरेश यादव :**
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या **खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि क्रमश: अक्तूबर और नवम्बर, 1988 के पहले सप्ताह में खले बाजार में वनस्पति के दाम बढ़कर नये उच्च स्तर पर आ गए थे ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है तथा पिछले वर्ष में इसी अवधि में उसकी क्या कीमत थी ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस मूल्य वृद्धि का कारण सरकार द्वारा की गई यह घोषणा थी कि वनस्पति के निर्माताओं को रियायती दर पर आयातित खाद्य तेल नहीं दिया जाएगा; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो बाजार में नयी फसल के आने से पूर्व ही ऐसी घोषणा किए जाने का क्या कारण था ?

खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुख राम) : (क) अक्तूबर तथा नवम्बर, 1988 के पहले सप्ताह के दौरान कुछ केन्द्रों में वनस्पति के कुछ ब्रांडों के खुदरा थोक मूल्य थोड़े अधिक थे ।

(ख) दिल्ली में निम्नलिखित मूल्य बनाए गए हैं :—

15 कि.ग्रा. का टिन
(स्थानीय करों सहित)

अक्तूबर, 1987 का प्रथम सप्ताह	346.75 रु०
नवम्बर, 1987 का प्रथम सप्ताह	346.75 रु०
अक्तूबर, 1988 का प्रथम सप्ताह	364.75 रु०
नवम्बर, 1988 का प्रथम सप्ताह	370.50 रु०

(ग) और (घ) सरकार द्वारा बाजार में नई फसल की आवक से पहले ऐसी कोई घोषणा नही की गयी थीं ।

Exchange of Radio frequency between France and India

*314. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received in 1986 or 1987 a French proposal for an agreement for exchange of Radio frequencies between Monisinery (French Guyana) and Aligarh, which would have enabled All India Radio to broadcast to Indian community in Florida and California in U.S.A.; if so, the reasons for not agreeing to the proposal; and

(b) whether Government are aware that China had signed an agreement with France so that Beijing uses French transmitters to broadcast to U.S.A. and Radio France International relays from Beijing French broadcasts to India; if so, the details of arrangements being made for AIR broadcasts to U.S.A.?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) A proposal for providing time to the French Radio on All India Radio's Shortwave transmitters for their South-East Asian service, in exchange, for Radio France giving air-time on their Shortwave transmitters located in French Guyana, for a service which AIR might beam to the Americans was considered in 1986-87, but, the same could not be agreed to as AIR was not in a position to provide a 4-Hour slot which Radio France wanted.

Radio France International (RFI) and Radio Beijing formalised an agreement by exchange of letters on November 10, 1988. The agreement provides for exchange of transmission time and facilities for six hours daily between these two organisations. The broadcasting from the respective facilities commenced on November 10. The agreement is for a period of three years, automatically renewable unless either side gives advance notification for termination. We are informed that the agreement contains a clause which forbids the transmission of material that is adverse to either country.

Government has no immediate plan for introducing a service to the U.S.A. However, AIR is sending canned programmes to the ethnic stations and some broadcasting organisations of the USA and Canada, especially for the benefit of Indian community there

Migration of Indian workers to Gulf Countries

*315. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual migration of workers from India to the Gulf Countries had substantially increased during the last three years; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) and (b) The emigration clearance for Gulf Countries was granted to 1.56 lakhs workers during 1985, 1.07 lakhs in 1986 and 1.20 lakhs in 1987 respectively. Due to recession, there was about 32 per cent decrease in emigration clearance during 1986 as compared to the year 1985. However, there was an increase of 12 per cent during the year 1987 as compared to the year 1986.

Impact of the Delhi Rent Control (Amendment) Act

*316. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the impact on House Tax revenue to the MCD and the property tax revenue to Government in